



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: Sept. 15, 2016

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Suspect charged in Columbia murder

Howard County police have charged a man in the murder of Martin Edward Mullineaux, 62, who was killed Sept. 13 in his apartment in the 8700 block of Hayshed Lane in Columbia. Joseph P. Loverde, 28, of no fixed address, has been charged with first- and second-degree murder, first-degree assault and vehicle theft.

Through investigation, police believe Mullineaux and Loverde had a personal relationship and that for various periods of time, Mullineaux allowed Loverde to live with him. Detectives learned of a call to police in March 2016 at the residence that was classified as a “domestic dispute” between the two men.

Through investigation, police developed information about recent contact between Mullineaux and Loverde. Detectives began investigating Loverde as a possible suspect in the case and determined that he was using the deceased victim’s credit cards in the days after the murder. Police also believe he was using the victim’s cell phone and driving his car, a Kia Sorento that was missing at the time the victim’s body was discovered.

After investigators obtained video of Loverde using Mullineaux’s credit cards at various businesses, he was taken into custody around 4:30 p.m. Sept. 14 while walking in the 500 block of N. Crain Highway in Glen Burnie, without incident. The missing Kia was later recovered in a parking lot in Glen Burnie.

Mullineaux’s body was found just before noon Sept. 13 after it was reported he had not been seen in two days. There were no signs of forced entry at his residence.

Loverde is being held without bond at the Howard County Detention Center.

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